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PAVEL V. KORCHAGIN  
APT. 81, HOUSE 30, BUILDING 1  
BESKUDNIKOVSKY BOULEVARD  
MOSCOW, RUSSIA 127474  
AIRMAIL

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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of :  
KORCHAGIN et al. :  
Application No. 10/663,260 :  
Filed: September 16, 2003 :  
Attorney Docket No. 2003-10.VBT :

Muriel Ciprian (Ciprian) and Vladmir Bararushkin (Bararushkin) have filed numerous papers in the above-identified application with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Applicants for patents may file and prosecute their own patent applications or they may be represented by a registered attorney, registered agent, or other individual authorized to practice before the USPTO in patent matters. See 37 CFR 11.6 and 11.9(a). The USPTO cannot aid in the selection of a registered attorney or agent. See 37 CFR 1.31.

An examination of this application reveals that applicants have attempted to appoint or to use Ciprian and Bararushkin, neither of whom are registered to practice before the USPTO in patent matters or have not been granted limited recognition under 37 CFR 11.9(a) to represent the applicants. Moreover, Ciprian is not a named inventor in the application, and there is no evidence that Ciprian and Bararushkin are assignees of the entire interest in the application. The attempt to appoint or use Ciprian and Bararushkin is contrary to the Code of Federal Regulations, 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.32. Therefore, the appointment and use is void, *ab initio*. We will not recognize the appointment.

The present application has been filed by joint inventors. A single inventor may prosecute the application when the other joint inventor has given him or her power of attorney. See 37 CFR 1.32(c)(1). The file does not include an appointment of a single inventor as power of attorney by the other joint inventors. Therefore, unless a registered patent attorney or agent is appointed to represent the inventors, or a power of attorney is given to one of the named inventors, all named inventors must sign all communications with the Office. See 37 CFR 1.33(b).

While an applicant may prosecute the application, lack of skill in this field usually acts as a liability in affording the maximum protection for the invention disclosed. The efforts to appoint or use Ciprian and Bararushkin to prosecute the application suggest that applicants desire to be represented. Applicants are, therefore, encouraged to secure the services of a registered patent

attorney or agent to prosecute the application, since the value of a patent is largely dependent upon skillful preparation and prosecution.

A list of registered patent attorneys and agents is available on the USPTO Internet web site <http://www.uspto.gov> in the Site Index under "Attorney and Agent Roster, Patent." Applicants may also obtain a list of registered patent attorneys and agents located in a geographical region by writing to Mail Stop OED, Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Any communications submitted to the USPTO by an inappropriate party will not be recognized and simply placed in the above-identified application. No further action will be taken.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Hearn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Hearn  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions